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It our triends who favor us with manuscripts to publication wish to have rejected articles returned they nust in all cases sen I stamps for that purpose.

No Backward Step !

From President Roosevelt's annual message uf 1903 Whenever either corporation, labor union or individual disregards the law or acts in a spirit of arbitrary and tyrannous interference with the rights of others, whether corporations or individuals, then where the Federal Government has jurisdiction it will see to it that the misconduct is stopped. paying not the slightest heed to the position or power of the corporation, the union or the individual, but only to one vital fact - that is, the question whether or not the conduct of the individual or aggregate of individuals is in accordance with the law

Every man must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor, so long as he does not infringe the rights of others. No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right, not asked

We have cause as a nation to be thankful for the steps that have been so successfully taken to put these principles into effect. The progress has been by evolution, not by revolution. Nothing radical has been done; the action has been both moderate and resolute. Therefore the work will stand. There shall be no backward step.

Mr. Roosevelt's New Attack on the Courts.

In his last special message unless one has been sent to Congress while we are writing-Mr. ROOSEVELT renews his menacing assault upon the courts of the in a number of cases this power [of injunction] has been used to the grave injury of the rights of laboring men.

In a previous special message it was stated that the writ of injunction

has sometimes been abused heedlessly and un justly and that some of the injunctions issued inflict grave and occasionally irreparable wrong upon those enjoined."

Both these statements are false. In his attacks upon the Federal courts Mr. ROOSEVELT has failed to specify a single instance in which the writ of injunction has been thus "abused heedlessly and unjustly," and this failure to specify concrete instances is the more remarkable as the President in his many railing accusations against predatory wealth generally fortifies his argument by instances furnished him by special attorneys, bureau chiefs or secret investigators.

In any normal state of public opinion the President would be required to specify the Judge who had thus abused his judicial power, to the end that he might be formally impeached, might have a fair trial in accordance with the Constitution, and if found guilty might be dismissed from his high office. The gross injustice of exposing the entire American judiciary to the contempt and hatred of a portion of the American people by generalizations too vague to admit of specific denial requires no comment.

In his last message the President amplifies his indictment of the judiciary and strikes a still deadlier blow at its and authority and dignity. He would not only limit the power of injunction, which the courts have exercised for the preservation of property for more than five hundred years, but would restrict that which is even more fundamental and vital, the right to punish for contempt. He advocates the revolutionary experiment of taking from the Judge whose authority has been mocked and whose very office has been insulted the power to punish those who thus put the majesty of law to an open shame. He recommends that the trial of contempt proceedings, except in special instances, shall be conducted by another Judge. This would mean that the Judge whose decree is defied and authority spat upon must step down from the bench, possibly appear as a witness against the wrongdoer and virtually litigate with him the question of the authority of the Court. Fortunately, like many other recommendations of Mr. ROOSEVELT, the Constitution would prevent the proposed law, even if Congress were sufficiently pliant to accept a recommendation so

The Constitution declares that "the judicial power of the United States" shall be vested in certain courts and that it shall "extend to all cases in law and equity." In these courts, when created by Congress, the Constitution itself-and not Congress-vests this judicial power. What Congress does not give it cannot the prevention of wrong by the writ of gress could not take away these essential a mere question of "public policy" and to be content. Meanwhile the man could attributes of a court if it would, and we involving no moral element; but, unless | not be retired against his wish. He still believe it would not if it could, all the spe- ; the spirit of the American reople has lacked three or four years of the statucial messages of THEODORE ROOSEVELY changed far more than we have any tory age of 64 and he refused to ask for

eminently worthy of JACK CADE himself.

GOMPERS to the contrary notwithstand-

The Supreme Court in the Debs case thus clearly demonstrated the futility of such legislation:

" The power to even imprison for contempt from the earliest history of jurisprudence has been regarded as a necessary incident and attribute of a court, without which it could no more exist than without a Judge. It is a power inherent in all courts of record and coexisted with them by wise provisions of common law. A court without the power effectually to protect itself against the assaults of the lawless or to enforce its orders, judgments or decrees against the recusant parties before & would be a disgrace to the Legislature and a stigma upon the age which invented it."

We especially commend the last sentence of this unanimous opinion to the careful consideration of Congress.

To the great iconoclast it is a slight thing to attack these inherent powers of a court of justice. If Congress were so servile as to adopt such revolutionary recommendations the courts would in their own time and way protect eneir constitutional rights as an independent although coordinate department of the Government.

We have too much respect for Mr. ROOSEVELT'S political foresight to believe that he expects or wishes that these radical recommendations will receive any sanction at the hands of Congress. The recommendation is merely a verbal sop to organized labor, which in the political exigencies of the hour must be placated at any cost, even though that cost be the degradation of the judiciary and the partial destruction of confidence in its ustice. Mr. ROOSEVELT-true type of the crafty politician "who would circumvent Gop"-is willing, for his own political interests, to delude organized labor into the belief that its members are the victims of an unjust abuse of judicial power and that he favors putting the courts in a straitjacket for their benefit.

Nothing is more extraordinary in this special message than the base reasons with which he commends his revolutionary policies to the attention of Congress. He specifies no proposed modification of the procedure in injunction cases; he gives no specific instances of abuses of the writ; he even fails to give any reason for his unwarranted conclusion that the writ of injunction has been used "heedlessly and unjustly." The real motive for his recommendation is betrayed in this remarkable sentence:

"They are blind who fall to realize the extreme tterness caused among large bodies of worthy citizens by the use that has been repeatedly made of the power of injunction in labor disputes."

The "worthy citizens" in question are

SAMUEL GOMPERS and JOHN MITCHELL, who boldly claim a peculiar right on the part of organized labor to interfere with the property rights of others and especially with the right of the independent wage earner to work except as their bondmen. The courts must be crippled that the sacred right of free riot and the more infamous thuggery of the boycott may be freely exercised to reduce the employer and independent wage earner to United States and strenuously attempts a state of subserviency to the labor olito sap public confidence in their deci- garchy of which SAMUEL GOMPERS is the ruling spirit. It is these "worthy citizens" who, on their own admissions, have recently been adjudged by the Supreme Court of the United States to be criminal violators of the Sherman anti-trust law and for whose benefit and to secure whose votes Theodore Roosevelt has deliberately and avowedly suspended the operations of that law by an unprecedented direction to his Attorney-General and District Attorneys not to enforce its salutary provisions against lawless labor unions. This service-the like of which has never before been known in American politics-should have been sufficient to allay any "bitterness" of these "worthy citizens" and to secure their much needed votes. Now on the eve of a Presidential election they must be further placated by restricting the vital powers of the courts to grant injunctions and punish for contempt.

Blunted as his political conscience is, Mr. ROOSEVELT mildly agrees that the bitterness of any class is no justification for a law that would grievously oppress other classes, and he proceeds, in his characteristic manner, to say:

"It may be and often is the duty of a court, a Legislature or an Executive to resist and defy a gust of popular passion, and most certainly no public servant, whatever may be the consequences to himself, should yield to what he thinks wrong,"

"in a question which is emphatically one of public policy, the policy which the public demands is sure in the end to be adopted,"

" in a democracy like ours it is idle to expect permanently to thwart the determination of the great body

Therefore, he impliedly argues, organized labor should have what it asks, without questioning too closely the wisdom of its demands. Such reasoning is characteristic of the demagogue, whose highest purpose and wisdom always it is to give the people what they seem to

Still more indefensible is his suggestion that his recommendations that the courts be crippled present only questions of "public policy" and are not matters of right or wrong. The very contrary is the case. The power of the courts to restrain wrong and their power to vindicate their own authority by punishing those who contemptuously defy it are not merely matters of "public policy." but are supremely moral in their nature. If a lawless labor organization is, as in the Pullman strike of 1894, tearing up tracks, destroying switches, derailing and burning cars, menacing life, destroying trade, paralyzing commerce, inflicting incalculable and irreparable losses upon innocent investors, is not the prevention of such an outrage to the rights of property and the liberty of individuals something more than a question of "public policy," like a tariff schedule or a

ourrency law? THEODORE ROOSEVELT, whose mind take away. Inherent in such power is whom restraints of law are meaningless abstractions and its judgments solemn injunction and the vindication of author- platitudes, may regard the preservation ity by punishment for contempt. Con- of the independence of the judiciary as

and the clamorous appeals of SAMUEL reason to suspect, this law abiding peopreventive writ of injunction and the power to punish for contempt—the right and left arms of the courts in the administration of justice-are merely economic questions and may be impaired merely to appease the clamorous "bitterness"

of any special class. Nothing is better calculated to embitter the manual toilers than the belief that they suffer any peculiar injustice at the hands of the courts. They are for the most part law abiding men and believe in their country and respect its institutions. Let them, however, once lose faith in the equal and unpurchased administration of justice between man form of government. It is this fact which makes Mr. ROOSEVELT's repeated in labor controversies so infinitely mischievous. In his last message he well says: "The demagogue * * * who sciousness in our working people does a foul and evil thing, for he is no true American * * * who erects the doctrine of class hatred into a shibboleth."

The Massachusetts Democrats.

It may be doubted whether Mr. FRED-ERIC JESUP STIMSON will ever forgive the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS, Mr. BRYAN'S factotum in Massachusetts, for inviting him to preside over the Demoratic State convention in Fancuil Hall. It was a select gathering in the sense that only 632 of 1,027 delegates entitled to seats were present, and being confined mainly to friends of Mr. WILLIAMS, some of whom are described by the local press as "strong armed men" left over from the rough house convention at Springfield last year, it was no place for literary Tellows like Mr. STIMSON and Professor ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN of Clark University.

We suspect that Mr. STIMSON, who is fellow townsman of WILLIAMS, both residing in Dedham, was beguiled into taking the gavel to lend dignity and respectability to the proceedings. If Mr. STIMSON wanted local color for one of his ingenious works of fiction he was not disappointed. In the pauses of the fighting the delegates sang "I'm Afraid to Go Home in the Dark." The chairman was called more names by vulgar partisans than he had ever heard at the old North End. And then the delegates were unruly and would not stay in their seats. We quote from a report of the deliberations when an acute stage had been reached:

" A dozen men rose to points of order. Pande nonium reigned, but the chairman continued with the appointment of tellers. the band started up

while everybody surged toward the stage. Mr. STIMSON is neither leather lunged nor strong armed, and he did not know what to do with the crisis until a voice prompted him: "Clear the platform. JIMMY." Accordingly Mr. STIMSON, whose name is not JIMMY, called in the and nay vote brought ex-Alderman DAN men of all nations on earth. FLANAGAN raging down the centre aisle blood in his eye and his arms swinging like flails. DAN shook a large forefinger under the chairman's nose, and peace was restored only when Mr. STIMSON allowed him a roll call. The eruption of Professor CHAMBERLAIN must also have been embarrassing. He is an anthropologist, antiquarian and specialist in folklore, member of many learned societies, and like Mr. STIMSON, a voluminous writer. The professor, despite objurgations and insults, climbed the platform

" If ROOSEVELT is a tyrant, your chairman is a tyrant to-day. I am a delegate and I am a Democrat, and I ask for permission to protest against the instruction of delegates for WILLIAM J. BRYAN. Men of Massachusetts, do not tie the hands of your delegates, but leave them free. If you do we will have a Democratic President in the next election. If you tie their hands the party will be as dead as the man you propose to indorse."

We have examined Mr. STIMSON'S rulings and find no evidence of usurpation in the record. He behaved, as MAR-TIN LOMASNEY of the North End said from the floor, like "a scholarly gentleman." He was eminently fair, courteous, mild and painstaking. His address on constitutional limitations deserved a much better hearing than it received from the delegates. But the convention was not truly representative of the Democratic party in Massachusetts. Chairman STIMSON was hardly in the company he likes best, and Professor CHAMBER-LAIN was as a voice crying in the wilderness. The truth is the machinery of the party has been turned over to George FRED WILLIAMS for the second time by the conservatives, who are tired of doing the work, paying the bills and being betrayed. Nowhere else is the Democratic party sunk in such lethargy and dejection. Under the leadership of WILLIAMS in 1897 it polled only 79,552 votes with that worthy as its candidate for Governor. Nothing but the defeat of BRYAN in the national convention will save the Democratic party in Massachusetts from extinction this time.

The Great Stewart Mystery.

Now that Senator RAYNER of Maryland has taken up the case of Colonel WILLIAM F. STEWART of the Coast Artillery we may expect some interesting revelations. There is much to be said on both sides of the question, but in our opinion very little in favor of the precise manner of the Colonel's discipline. That, we think, might easily have been managed otherwise.

It will be recalled that THE SUN first called attention to the Colonel's exile at Fort Grant, an abandoned army post in Arizona, twenty-six miles from the nearest railway and ten miles distant from any human habitation. He was sent there last October with one man to look after him, his only apparent sin consisting in a stern refusal to apply for retireis essentially lawless in character and to- ment after forty years of service. Of course that was not all, for the army seldom, if ever, wishes to get rid of eligible officers, but it was all the public could ascertain definitely, and with that we had

retirement on the score of forty years of ple will refuse to believe that the great service. The expedient had been suggested to him by headquarters and he had respectfully but firmly declined unless he was to be retired as a Brigadier-General-something not to be considered in the Department's scheme. So the Colonel, silent, imperturbable, uncomplaining, packed his traps, wept out to Fort Grant with the wolves, the coyotes

and the chaparral and sat him down and Some weeks ago THE SUN took notice of the case, controversy followed, and about ten days ago Colonel STEWART was transferred to an old abandoned fort in Florida where at least he would have the freedom of the nearby city of St. Augusand man and they will turn and rend our tine. But hardly had he reached there and begun to unstrap his trunks, bags, &c., when he got orders to return to Fort assaults upon the fairness of the courts Grant. He promptly obeyed. Presumably by this time he is there or thereabouts. He has had a more or less interesting journey of 6,000 or 7,000 miles and strives to arouse this feeling of class con- no doubt feels vastly refreshed in consequence, and there he is, or soon will be again, just where he began. Apparently he is the bagatelle of the moment which the War Department finds it amusing to speed. He is saying nothing, however.

Maybe he is something else. Meanwhile Senator RAYNER has taken up the case and seems disposed to press Perhaps we shall at last hear all the facts, a consummation much to be desired. The spectacle of a Colonel of the Coast Artillery bandied about from one side of the country to the other, consigned to a remote and painful exile from civilization, cloistered from all human companionship and sympathy, and all this without a reason that can be or has been explained—this is a spectacle that naturally excites wonder. Evidently Colonel STEWART has done nothing for which he can be court-martialled. Presumably he has not laid himself open to a court of inquiry. But clearly he has done something something which the Department wishes to punish secretly and hesitates

to deal with openly. What, then, are WILLIAM F. STEWART'S offences and where are the defects in our military system which permit or require these evasive and underhand methods?

The Trouble With Bradley.

Despatches from Kentucky assert that Senator-elect WILLIAM O. BRADLEY, leader of the Fairbanks supporters in that State, had many friends among the Taft delegates to the State convention who wished to have him sent to the Chicago convention as a delegate at large, but that they were defeated because of Mr. Bradley's "inflammatory speeches." Mr. BRADLEY is one of the nost powerful orators in his State, and his enthusiasm must have led him frequently into extreme utterances.

How distasteful these would be to the adherents of Mr. TAFT is obvious. The Secretary himself is the candidate and representative of a man whose moderation of statement, whose restraint in police and the usurpation from the floor | the choice of adjectives, nouns and verbs, ceased. But Mr. STIMSON'S troubles has made deep impression on his counwere not over. His decision on a yea trymen and the intelligent and studious

The mere fact that Senator BRADLEY is opposed to the selection of Mr. TAFT as the Republican candidate for President, therefore, has nothing to do with his defeat at Louisville.

Now that the Hon. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT stands upon a peak in Darien while Secretary METCALF is belping him discover the Pacific in the banquet hall of the Fairmont Hotel, and the Fresident naturalizes at Pine Knot, who bosses our War establishment in Washington?

"Johnson carries Minnesota," as is his custom. "Bryanites disrupt Massachusetts Democracy," as is their custom. Will Denver favor carriage or smash?

Business Man's View of a Political Agitator.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Siz: YOU ost truly say in your leading editorial to-day Mr. Boosevelt hangs like a pall of death over the business initiative and energy of the whole country," and I make the assertion. without any fear of successful contradiction, that no one man in the history of this country has done the harm to legitimate business interests that he has by his reckless, thoughtless methods. BROOKLYN, May 8.

When to Sweep the Streets,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: If the Street Cleaning Department were alive to the possibilities and advantages of street cleaning during a rainstorm it would have its men out in full force, using neir brooms during the present downpour. One sweeping on a day like this is worth twenty in dry weather, since the filth would be carried into the

sewers by the broom aided rivulets. The benefit to the public health would be striking, to say nothing of the beauty of a really clean asphalt, since the germ laden dust carried by the prevalent high winds is responsible for a vast amount of infectious disease. As it is, the deluge of rain water is allowed to escape into the sewers autilized, and the accumulation of dirt and fifth and sweepings remains just where it was, to dry out in the next sunshine and to be distributed by the next wind into the mouths, noses, eyes and ears of a helpless community. Policemen, firemen. letter carriers do their duty in the rain; why not the "white wings"?

The Decadent Oyster.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: When we ould get decent oysters, oysters really fit to eat men did not talk of cooking them. Such a suggestion would have been the signal for an uprising. a revolution among the lovers of good eating. Now oysters, fattened, bleached and bloated as they are before serving, are unfit to eat without being subjected to some process designed to conceal their flabbiness and to give to them a flavor in place of that they have lost. But the oyster is not necesto the preparation of such dishes. A gob of putty would do as well. Cooked oysters are for those who lee their wine. ientlemen know better. BUZZARDS BAY.

On the Sands of Time. Robinson Crusce had just found the footprint. "It isn't Roosevelt's," he exclaimed, "because a't going backward." Reassured, he continued his search.

NEW YORK, May ".

A Tragic Tale. A very reckless Hottentot Lived in a distant isle. To fend him from the elements He simply wore a smile. He put it on when in the fall The chilly breezes blew

And then he wore it constantly

The dreary winter through. Perhaps it grew a bit too warm, He scorned his wife's advice. And when the first spring day arrived He peeled it in a trice.

A cold wave followed after that; Before another noons Proumonia claimed the Hottentot Who took it off too soon! MCLANDBURGH WILSOW, RATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The ectures on the present railway situation by Logan G. McPherson at Columbia University exemplify anew that fundamental progress in the affairs of man is a natural evolution which does not arise from laws made by men but to which laws made by men must ultimately conform. Before there was an interstate commerce law the action and reaction, one upon another, of the railroads and the waterways, the geographical locations, the physical limitations, the material needs and the economic resources of each section of the United States had developed for each section a system of freight rates peculiarly adapted to its peculiar needs. Throughout its existence the Interstate Commerce Commission has not overthrown and has not seriously modified any one of these freight rate structures that are the development of economic and not of human law. Inoculated with popular error, it attacked a dozen or more years ago the Southern basing point system, but the railroads stood their ground and the Supreme Court of the United States overruled the commission. Even under the Hepburn law the commission has sought no radical readjustment except to renew ts efforts to obtain a uniform classification for the entire country, an effort which the railroads themselves wish godspeed, even although the traffic officers are staggered by the details of the defiant problem.

The freight rate structures of the United States, outlined as a whole and in their relation for the first time by Mr. McPherson. as firmly illustrate the working of the nfinite energy to fitting ends as does the, growth of the alphabet or the banking system, or any other instrument that has developed in advance of the enactment of legislators. New England must live upon her small manufactures, bring raw material from without and market products beyond her borders. Hence the blanket rate system, which places all New England on a parity in so far as railroad rates are concerned, and on a practical parity with the competing region of New York, northern New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania. The eastern and western flow of traffic between the north Atlantic seaboard and Chicago and St. Louis has developed the trunk line percentage system, fairly adjusting the transportation charge to and from every intermediate point. Beyond Chicago and St. Louis, where the traffic channels break. radiating to and converging from the Northwest, West and Southwest, have developed fixed relations between the rates to and from different cities that are held in equilibrium by the contending com-

mercial forces. In the South, where the railroads are beset by the competition of the coastwise vessels of the ocean and the Gulf on the east and south, and by the competition, actual or potential, of the Ohio and the Mississippi rivers on the north and west, where the traffic channels extend east and west, north and south, northeast and southwest, southeast and northwest, the railroads have been obliged to focus competition on certain basing points." Competition between the merchants who send their wares northward from the Gulf and the merchants who send their wares southward from Memphis, St. Louis, Chicago and other cities to the northward gives Texas a system of freight rates peculiar to itself and its needs. The rail rates on the manufactured products of the East to the Pacific Coast are kept down by the steamships, and the conditions imposed by the markets keep down the rates on the fruits of California to the East.

These general freight rate structures of the different regions are traversed by special freight rates that have grown to meet the particular needs of the great staple commodities that move in vast volumes for general consumption. The rates on grain and grain products, on meat and mest products, are so delicately adjusted that these commodities move with but a minimum of friction. The raw materials of manufacture and manufactured products move from every place of production to their markets without let or hindrance from freight rates. There increases a decentralization of distribution through which the retail dealer and his patrons obtain the merchandise of daily need with greater ease from the

source of supply. As progress is not attained in any field at any time or place without that struggle which leads to the survival of the fittest these freight rate adjustments are the result of long fought rate wars, of tests of strength between the shippers of the various cities and between the different railroads. After wars come treaties of peace, the crystallization of experience into law. This stage in railroad development was marked by the formation of traffic associations and traffic agreements whose prohibition is now generally recognized even by President Roosevelt to have been a mistake. The processes of this develment, as of every other development, have not been without incidental injury now and then in one direction or another, and not without a measure of that positive abuse which has not been absent from any development recorded by history. That insidious and unjust practices should be prohibited and penalized is beyond question; and it is gratifying to remember, the misrepresentations of politicians and popular misconception to the contrary notwithstanding, that the railroads themselves sought the enactment of the sound and stable portions of the Hepburn law. That there must be provision for the enforcement of prohibitions and penalties is also above question, and here again it is gratifying to know that so far as the correction of unjust rates is concerned the burden that has fallen upon the Interstate Commerce Commission since the enactment of

the Hepburn law has been negligible. The twenty-first annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission states that during the calendar year 1907 there were just as many formal complaints decided in favor of the defendant railroads as in favor of the complainant shippers The analysis of the work of the commission made by Mr. McPherson covers the sixteen months from August 28, 1906, the date the Hepburn law took effect, to the close of the following calendar year, in order to include whatever long withheld complaints may have been presented to the commission immediately after the law became effective. This analysis discloses that of the 425 formal complaints affecting freight rates and incidental service made during that year and one-third, on April 11, 1908, 20 per cent. had been decided in favor of the complainant, 27 per cent. in favor of the defendant railroads, 10 per cent, had been compromised or adjusted and withdrawn, while 43 per cent. of the total remained undecided.

What better proof could there be that the docket of the Interstate Commerce Commission bears to the freight rate structure of the country and to the vast traffic moving thereunder only about the same rela-tion that the docket of a Justice of the Peace bears to the conduct of an orderly community?

NEW YORK, May 8. The Difference Knicker—The business men cry: "Let us alone." Bocker—And the Administration cries; "Let us

THE GENESIS OF OUR FREIGHT SCHOOL BOOK ILLUSTRATIONS. Comments of a Practical Man on the

Plates in Use To-day. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As a practical wood engraver and finisher of half tone plates, as well as the father of two boys who probably will soon be in a public school, I wish to add something to the discussion of school book illustration now attracting the attention of school authorities, publishers,

physicians and parents. It seems to be conceded that pictures and paper as now produced are injurious to the eyes. A duller finish to the paper is called for, and this means other methods of illustration. There are three methods that are available: wood engraving, direct process, and photo-engraving or half tone as it is ommonly called.

Wood engravings well done are the most artistic, the most printable and the most durable of all illustrations. There is a brilliancy of contrasting lights and shadows and a richess of color in them that can be secured in no other way.

The direct process for reproducing pen and ink work is sharp, clean and printable, but if books were full of pen and ink work they would look thin and monotonous Half tone plates can be so well worked up by hand tooling that they do not require

glazed surfaces for good printing. In some cases the entire surface of a half tone plate should be engraved by hand. Light skies and bright surfaces and details should nearly ways be so engraved.

always be so engraved.

There are enough wood engravers left to do all the school book work if wood engraving is desired, or to do any amount of engraving on half tones.

The universal use of the direct process seems to be out of the question for the reason also o be out of the question for the re-eady given, and because it would he use of photographs from natur-

ready given, and because it would debar
the use of photographs from nature, from
objects and from old and modern masters
of painting. Besides it would exclude oil or
wash paintings and drawings and thus seriously limit artists in their materials.

All three methods—wood engraving, direct
process and half tones—should be used with
such liberality and skill that the children will
have the benefit of the best pictures that art
can furnish not only for the sake of their
eyes but for their general culture.

Some of the latest products of modern
school book machinery are a disgrace to
twentieth century art and printing. Where

twentieth century art and part they are usu-new wood engravings are used they are usu-ally so greatly reduced from the original draw-little value. Many half ings that they have little value. Many half tones look worn out in the first edition—this too, in spite of their coming from thoroughly up to date printing plants equipped with the electric presses Haste seems a poor excuse, because school books need not be rushed out like a news-

aper.
If I should state my opinion as to the reasons for the present conditions it might neem courteous to the publishers.

NEW YORK, May 8. C. W. CHADWICK.

One Glory That Decadent Massachusetts Still Boasts. From the Boston Travele

The knowledge of our estermed contempora THE SUN is almost encyclopædic; everything it touches, except Rooseyeit and his appendices. illuminates; him it exacerbates, flagellates and macerates; it has a pretty wit; it serves everything with a sauce piquante; if it could endow with com non sense those upon whom it bestows advice might achieve unquestioned authority, if not in fallibility; its variety is infinite; its humor constant like the trunk of the elephant, its pen can lift a pi or pull down a pillar with equal address; and general its appearance, content, opinion and ethod differ from those of its contemporaries as the fruitage of a French chef's art differs from to ulinary chemistry of the cook of a Maine logging camp. While admitting the height and depth and cadth of THE SUN'S information, we refuse to acknowledge its possession of omniscience, and o reverence and admiration stop abruptly when I assumes to pose as an authority on pie. We draw the line at pie; and, assuming the dangers of the perilous charge of provinciallym, we assert that no erson and no publication outside the historic pie authority in the arts and literature of ple.

In delivering ourselves the other day of a thought ul essay upon the coincidence of the decay Puritanism and pie we may have been misunder stood for what we designed to call attention to was a falling off in the quantity, not the quality of nie consumed in New England. The ple of merry New England still holds its primary it still Phidiases, its supreme artists, who appeal It is for these great artists, and they are largely uritanesses, to say the first and last word on ple the mere outsider may indulge in the piffle of pleans, may even carp in criticism and comment of the bonne bouche, under certain conditions: but when the art of the master is discussed with flippancy. when the supremacy of the work is questioned, when primacy and supremacy are claimed for the inferior products of inferior regions and races, a shocked community rises in indignation to protest against a Philistinism which is perilously close to acrilege. The Sun has been putting on airs about ple and its lore; it should put them off at once, assumes too much, it is getting on dangerous ground, into a field of knowledge and art in which t is alien; it should recognize its limitations and not bring grief to a proud and ple fed people

Pie is the pabulum of the Puritan brain; that I appeals to the painte is a mere detail; that it feeds yspepsia and fosters in figestion is merely a coincidence. Linked as it has been with the Puritanism pragmatism and poetry of New England for ages. ple has attained an almost sacrosanct station the affections of the people; and who shall pull I down? We have noted with surprise and indigna tion the efforts of THE SUN to dethrone pie, t speak of it lightly and irreverently; we have watched its insidious efforts to boost the pie of Virginia and reach the solar piexus of Yankee ple and pride by satire and scoff; and of late, recognizing the tility of trying to turn the great heart and appe tite of America from ple, it has sought to erect tself into a supreme court on all questions of pic. The march of time, the changing interests of the age, the shifting of the centre of population, the growth of the West and the coming of new peoples, have threatened and weakened the supremacy of New England in many ways. The poets and pub lishers have gone to New York, the South stretches a greedy hand for our callcoes, white Ohio reaches our leathers and our shoes; the bloodroot of Chicago chailenges the sarsaparilla o and the plasters of Terre Haute rival the pills of Lynn and Lydia; but in one great department of human activity New England is still supreme, even though her away and primacy may be by envious rivals-Pie. We tell this to THE SUN more in sorrow than in anger, with the hope tha t will cease its assaults on a historic and honored institution, and that if it must add to its literar lure the department of pleography it will come to New England for its pieographers.

Mrs. Green's Little Jest.

From the Morning Mercury, New Bedford, Muss. It is amusing to New Bedford people to read the speculation of New York newspaper reporters regarding the effect of a fifteen dollar a day apart ment at the Plaza upon Mrs. Hetty Green. Mrs. Green is unquestionably close in her expenditures. but she was to the manor born and no stranger to luxurious surroundings. She belonged to a patrician family and in her girlhood associated with the Quaker squires in New Bedford. If some of the young newspaper men of New York could see the stately homes in which Mrs. Green lived as a girl n New Bedford-say the imposing stone mansion at the corner of Pleasant and Campbell streets-we think they would realize that their interest regarding the impressions of Mrs. Green at the sight of a mirror and piece of tapestry in the room of a New York hotel was not only impertment but abeurd and egregious. Mrs. Green seems to have humored the reporters and exclaimed over the magnificence of her surroundings for the benefit of the newspaper men, but we can assure them she is simply making merry at their expense.

Jim Lane's Challenge.

From the Kansas City Stor Soon after Lane became prominent in the Terririal affairs of Kansas he began to be challenged by pro-slavery champions to fight them, eitner or with picked bodies of men. At Nebraska City in 1856 he received a challenge from two aged citizens to name two or ten of his followers who would meet the two champions of slavery alone, or those two with eight men whom they would choose and fight a duel at short range with muskets, rifles, shotguns or revolvers. Lane refused, but issued a challenge himself directed at bigger game. Lane's challenge was addressed to Col. A. W. Doniphar and A. G. Boone, a son of Daniel Boone, but was really intended for David R. Atchison, acting Vice-President of the United States, to decide by wager of battle the great contest in Kansas. There were to be 100 men on each side, Lane and Atchison to be of the number, and the fight was to be in the presence of twelve members of each house of Congress. The challenge was not accepted, but Lane was not bothered with any more challenges.

> Is This Why? O spring, why aren't you on the job? Why so delayed? Or do you give our pet excuse, Subway blockede?

NEW BOOKS.

Some of the Season's Fletien. very readable story written with and lightness and well suited dash for summer consumption is Miss Edith Macvane's "The Duchess of Dreams" (J. Lippincott Company). It is a bright bit of what painters call chic, carried out with a fresh youthfulness that is altractive, and though it is clear that the Newport society, the Russian intrigue: and even, we fear, the love making are mifamiliar to the author, she sketches in the conventional ideas about them so confidently that the reader will be willing to accept them. The plot is ingenious and amusing; it could easily make an emotional play; if in carrying it out the incidents are made often rather crudely melodramatic they are, at any rate, made to fit in. It is a pity that the talent and industry shown by the author should be wasted on such flimsy material, even if popularity is attained. While great pains are taken with the accessories, on one point Miss Macvane slips up; she seems im-

> ulary, but sacrebleu has dropped out of it. Rather extraordinary adventures may befall the man who takes one step from the beaten path in New York city, if we may judge from Mr. John T. McIntyre's "In the Dead of Night" (J. B. Lippincott Company . The hero's successive adventures are exciting and they follow on one another so rapidly that the breathless reader has no time to ask himself how his physical endurance can hold out. There is a collapse at the end; the author does not supply motive enough to account for what is done, and he does not clear up matters satisfactorily. Possibly the reader may not mind this in his relief at having come to the end of the book.

pressed with the humor of the expletive

"sacred blue." which she repeats till it

makes the reader grit his teeth. We doubt if

any living person ever heard that oath drop

from the lips of a Frenchman, much less

of a woman. However much it may have

been employed in the past, it is now a

purely literary gem, like "alas" in English,

that may be seen in print but is never

used in conversation. When a Frenchman

wants to swear he has an abundant vocab-

Strange doings in a New Hampshire country house will busy the reader of "Meryl," by Mr. William Eldridge Tillinghast (Dodd, Mead and Company). Here again the rush of events is counted upon to blind the reader to rather unsatisfactory explanations at the end. The love part of the story is agreeable, the incidents are exciting enough, but the descriptions of scenery might be omitted to advantage in mystery tale.

Steadily Mr. Daniel De Leon keeps up his ask of translating the episodes of Eugene Sue's "The Mysteries of the People." "The Poniard's Hilt" we come to Merovingian times and the story of the wandering peasants, the Bagaudæ; soon the translator will reach the stories that have never been rendered into English; there are dozen more to come. They are as brilliant and exciting tales as Sue ever wrote, and the neglect they have met with even in French is one of the mysteries of literature. New York Labor News Com-eny.)

In "The Five Knots" (Little, Brown and ompany) Mr. Fred M. White has written a pretty good mystery story. It deals with Orientals, and in stories of this class Orientals on English soil are gifted with an omniscience and an omnipotence that is startling. Apart from this, however, the tale hangs together well, it is exciting and plausible, and if the English is at times shaky that is no more than readers of Mr.

White's stories must expect. The book that first attracted notice to Mr. R. S. Hichens, "The Green Carnation," has long been out of print. It is published anew, apparently from the plates of the Appleton edition, by Mitchell Kennerley. After a dozen years the epigrams of Mr. Hichens's satire are as bright as ever, in pleasent contrast with the efforts of the women novelists who have endeavored to

imitate him. The whole earlier output of Mrs. Elinor Glyn's pen comes to us at once with a new publisher's name on the title page, that of Duffield and Company. It comprises "The Damsel and the Sage," "The Vicissitudes of Evangeline." "The Reflections of Ambrosine" and "Beyond the Rocks." We can only congratulate the honored and respectable publishing house whose imprint formerly appeared on these volumes, on its freeing itself from the responsibility of spreading Mrs. Glyn's books.

A Collection of Dead Bones.

In the old days there existed an excellent term borrowed from the French which still survives in the official designation of certain college professorships. It was "belies lettres," which like "fine arts," denoted the attainment of the gentleman scholar, in unconscious contrast to the specialist pedant that was to take his place. For instance, at Harvard there is a Smith professorship of "the French and Spanish languages and belles lettres" that was held by George Ticknor, Henry Wadswort's Longfellow and James Russell Lowell. After the death of the last a long interval passed without a successor being appointed, and only recently the Harvard Corporation, feeling sure that the needed type of scholar was completely extinct, split up the professorship between specialists for the foreign languages and Mr. Bliss Perry to sea what he could do with the literary end.

The loose term "belles lettres" has been turned into the more scientific expression comparative literature, which, whatever it may mean, sounds at least like other modern sciences, such as comparative philology, anatomy and the rest of them. There are periods of literature undoubtedly. where it is convenient and profitable to consider the products of different countries together, the early or the later Middle Ages, for instance; and there are plenty of instances where certain forms in one country have affected the writing in another that are well worth studying. Comparisons are entertaining even when they are odious, and if they are developed by a bright writer with some sense of proportion may be very profitable. It seems necessary, however, nowadays to demonstrate that comparative literature is a science and must therefore be exact, and the result is a painful output of pedantry which, often starting from a true generalization, lands in elaborate and misleading details. Not long ago such a book was reviewed in THE SUN where a brilliant and promising theme, the literature of roguery, was ruined by the pedantio tyranny of method.

Pursuing these later methods of comparative literature, which seem to have their roots in doctor dissertations. Prof. J. E. Spingard of Columbia University has studied out the dreariest form of literary composition, unless it be theological polemics, in "A History of Literary Criticism in the Renaissance" (The Columbia University Press; Macmillans). This has attained now a second edition. On this subject Prof. Spingard can speak with hard earned authority, which few, we imagine,

will undertake to dispute. Prof. Spingard, however, has gone further. He has snatched from their deserved oblivion two volumes of selections of "Critical Essays of the Seventeenth Century,"